United Nations CEDAW/C/PSWG/68/1

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
14 March 2017

Original: English

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Pre-sessional working group
Sixty-eighth session
6-10 March 2017

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the pre-sessional working group

1. It is the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to convene a pre-sessional working group for five days to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the initial and periodic reports that will be considered by the Committee at one of its future sessions.

2. The Committee decided that the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-eighth session of the Committee would meet from 6 to 10 March 2017, immediately after the sixty-sixth session, in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to States parties to submit their written replies to the lists of issues and questions, as well as to ensure their timely translation.

3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-sessional working group and attended the session:

Nicole Ameline
Magalys Arocha Dominguez
Naéla Gabr
Ismat Jahan
Pramila Patten

4. Ms. Patten participated as a substitute for Lia Nadaraia, who was unable to participate.

5. The pre-sessional working group elected Ms. Gabr as its Chair.

Note: The present document is being circulated in English, French and Spanish only.

17-04112 (E) 170317

Please recycle

6. The pre-sessional working group prepared lists of issues and questions with regard to the reports of Burkina Faso, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Guatemala, Kenya, Kuwait, Monaco, Nauru, Norway, Oman, Paraguay and Singapore. In that regard, it was guided by Committee decision 49/IX, according to which the Committee decided to limit such lists to 20 questions. In practice and exceptionally, some lists contain a maximum of 23 paragraphs. In accordance with its decisions 58/II, 59/IV and 60/IX, the Committee, on a pilot basis, prepared a list of issues and questions prior to reporting under the optional simplified reporting procedure, namely a list of issues and questions prior to the submission of the fifth periodic report of Liechtenstein. For this, it was guided by its decisions 59/IV and 64/II, according to which the Committee decided to limit such lists to 25 paragraphs and to 75 questions, respectively.

7. To assist in the preparation of the lists of issues and questions, the pre-sessional working group had before it the reports of the States parties listed above, with the exception of Liechtenstein, which had availed itself of the simplified reporting procedure, in addition to the core documents of those States parties, with the exceptions of Nauru and Singapore; the general recommendations adopted by the Committee; draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the secretariat; and other pertinent information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, if relevant. In preparing the lists, the pre-sessional working group paid particular attention to the States parties' follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee on their previous reports, except for Monaco and Nauru, which had each submitted an initial report.

8. The pre-sessional working group benefited from written and oral information submitted by entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions.

9. The lists of issues and questions adopted by the pre-sessional working group were transmitted to the States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

(a) List of issues and questions in relation to the seventh periodic report of Burkina Faso (CEDAW/C/BFA/Q/7);

(b) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined second to fourth periodic reports of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/PRK/Q/2-4);

(c) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Guatemala (CEDAW/C/GTM/Q/8-9);

(d) List of issues and questions in relation to the eighth periodic report of Kenya (CEDAW/C/KEN/Q/8);

(e) List of issues and questions in relation to the fifth periodic report of Kuwait (CEDAW/C/KWT/Q/5);

(f) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Monaco (CEDAW/C/MCO/Q/1-3);

(g) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined initial and second periodic reports of Nauru (CEDAW/C/NRU/Q/1-2);

(h) List of issues and questions in relation to the ninth periodic report of Norway (CEDAW/C/NOR/Q/9);

(i) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined second and third periodic reports of Oman (CEDAW/C/OMN/Q/2-3);

(j) List of issues and questions in relation to the seventh periodic report of Paraguay (CEDAW/C/PRY/Q/7);

(k) List of issues and questions in relation to the fifth periodic report of Singapore (CEDAW/C/SGP/Q/5).

10. The list of issues and questions prior to the submission of the fifth periodic report of Liechtenstein (CEDAW/C/LIE/QPR/5) will be submitted to the Committee for approval at its sixty-seventh session (3-21 July 2017) before being transmitted to the State party.

11. In accordance with Committee decisions 22/IV, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focused on themes addressed by the Convention, as well as on the linkages between relevant themes and target 5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Those themes include the constitutional and legislative framework; women and peace and security, where applicable; national machinery for the advancement of women; stereotypes and harmful practices; gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in decision-making; nationality; education and training; employment; health; economic opportunities; rural women; the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities, refugee women and migrant women, including women migrant domestic workers; equality before the law; and marriage and family relations.